

Senate Bill No. 594

Passed the Senate September 6, 2007

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 4, 2007

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2007, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Sections 14020 and 14024 of the Penal Code, relating to witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 594, Romero. Witness Relocation and Assistance Program.

Existing law establishes the Witness Protection Program, and authorizes the Attorney General to reimburse state and local agencies for the provision of specified services to witnesses.

This bill would rename that program the Witness Relocation and Assistance Program, and would include support, advocacy, and other services for witnesses' safe transition into a new environment as part of the services to be reimbursed.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14020 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

14020. There is hereby established the Witness Relocation and Assistance Program.

SEC. 2. Section 14024 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

14024. The Attorney General shall coordinate the efforts of state and local agencies to secure witness protection, relocation, and assistance services and then reimburse those state and local agencies for the costs of the services that he or she determines to be necessary to protect a witness from bodily injury, assure the witness's safe transition into a new environment, and otherwise to assure the health, safety, and welfare of the witness. The Attorney General may reimburse the state or local agencies that provide witnesses with any of the following:

(a) Armed protection or escort by law enforcement officials or security personnel before, during, or subsequent to, legal proceedings.

(b) Physical relocation to an alternate residence.

(c) Housing expense.

(d) Appropriate documents to establish a new identity.

(e) Transportation or storage of personal possessions.

(f) Basic living expenses, including, but not limited to, food, transportation, utility costs, and health care.

(g) Support, advocacy, and other services to provide for witnesses' safe transition into a new environment.

(h) Other services as needed and approved by the Attorney General.

Approved _____, 2007

Governor